

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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ASIAN BAPTIST WOMEN MEET IN TOKYO

An organization meeting of the Pacific-Southeast Asia Women's Union of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance attended by eighty-four delegates was held at Amagi Sanso April 4-8. Eighteen of those present were representatives from Thailand, Burma, Hong Kong, Formosa, Hawaii, Korea and the Philippines. The Japan Baptist Convention (Southern Baptist) and the Shinsei Kai (New Life Society), which consists of Baptist Churches of the Northern Baptist tradition were hosts. There are similar regional organizations in other parts of the world, but this is the first time Baptist women of this area have organized.

Officers elected were: President: Mrs. Remedios Vaslor (P.I.)
Vice President: Miss Edna Wong (Hong Kong), Sec'y: Ayako Hino (Japan), Treasurer: Akiko Matsumura (Japan)
Representative at large was Mrs. Lucy Wu Hsu of Formosa.

The organization is a result of the 1955 meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in London. It was significant because it brought the women of the two Baptist groups in Japan closer together and because it is one more indication of trend toward closer relations between Christians in the Pacific-Southeast Asia region.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church at its 33rd Annual meeting held on April 4, elected the Reverend Chitose Kishi, principal of the Theological Seminary, as chairman. 170 ministers and laymen attended as delegates representing the 89 churches affiliated in the organization. Aside from routine business the problem of uniting the eleven denominations working in Japan received careful consideration. Rev. W. C. Johnson, secretary of the Division of Foreign Missions of the Lutheran Church in the USA was a guest. The Rev. Mr. Kishi is 58 years of age, a graduate of the University of Southern California an author of several books of theology and well known in church and theological circles in Japan.

ASIAN RURAL LEADERS CONFERENCE

The National Rural Service and Training Center at Hino on the outskirts of Tokyo will conduct a Rural Leaders Training Conference this summer (July 23-31) for East and Southeast Asia rural leaders. The conference will discuss such subject as "The Liberation of Rural Society and the Enlightenment of Farmers," "Rural Churches and Evangelism", "Improving Rural Society". Following the conference foreign visitors will inspect rural centers in Rifu (Miyagi Prefecture), Tomisato (Chiba Prefecture), Hamamatsu (Shizuoka Prefecture), Omi Brotherhood (Shiga Prefecture), Iimorino (Hyogo Prefecture), and Toyoshima (Kagawa Prefecture).

Representatives of churches in Okinawa, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, Korea and Japan including approximately fifty missionaries, are expected to attend. The Rev. Teiro Nagao and the Rev. Toshi Jimata, chairman of the Rural Evangelism Committee, are to visit the above countries in order to investigate local conditions and make arrangements for those expecting to attend. This conference is an outgrowth of the recent Bangkok meeting of the Asia Council on Ecumenical Mission.

S.S. CONVENTION - HIROSHIMA

The 1956 National Sunday School Convention is to be held in Hiroshima, May 3-5. Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa will address the convention on "Be True to Christ's Way" and "There is no other Way to Educate." Tokutaro Kitamura, member of parliament and former Finance Minister, will speak on "Jesus Christ and Rebuilding Japan," the Rev. Gosaku Okada on "Current Developments in Religious Education, and Miss Gertrud E. Kuecklick, a German missionary of the Evangelical United Brethren Mission on "Lead Youth to Christ and Japan to Christ."

Among organized discussion groups will be the following: "Church Education and Theology" led by the Prof. Kozo Kitamori of Tokyo Union Seminary, "Curriculum and the Building of Men" by Professor Ayusaka of Kyoto University, "Church school and Morals" by Professor Tadashi Tominaga of Nara University, and "Mission

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

The National Bureau of Standards is a Federal agency established in 1901 to provide a national system of standards and measurements. It is the primary authority for the establishment and maintenance of the national system of standards and measurements. The Bureau is responsible for the development and maintenance of the national system of standards and measurements, and for the dissemination of information on standards and measurements. The Bureau is also responsible for the development and maintenance of the national system of standards and measurements, and for the dissemination of information on standards and measurements.

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Schools and SS" by Miss Hamako Hirose, President of Hiroshima Jogakuin. 500 delegates are expected to be attend.

AMAMI OSHIMA

The Rev. Jiro Fukui (56), minister of Kusunoki-machi Church in Moji has been assigned to the Amami Oshima islands by the United Church of Christ in Japan. The present minister, Rev. Kanemasu Kaneyama, who has served the Kikai-jima Church for forty years, is now past seventy years of age and too ill and feeble to continue pastoral duties for the islanders. When efforts to secure a younger minister for the two thousand islanders failed, Mr. Fukui, who formerly was professor at Yamaguchi Commercial College and pastor of the Church in Moji, volunteered his services and expects to locate on Kikai-jima Island for at least three years. There are Holiness, Catholic and Spirit of Jesus Churches and twenty-three preaching centers in the island. The general situation in the islands has been so very difficult since the islands were turned back to Japan last year that it is hoped in connection with Mr. and Mrs. Fukui's arrival in the islands that Japan Church World Service will be able to do something for the relief of the people.

The Amami Oshima islands are located about 200 miles south of Kagoshima prefecture and for centuries have been considered an integral part of that prefecture.

FORMER NAVAL OFFICER

Former Naval Captain Mitsuo Fuchida, who participated in the Japanese forces which attacked Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, has become an active evangelist and is planning to conduct services next month at his hometown, Kashiwabara, site the ancient Shinto shrine to the first Emperor of Japan. In addition to his preaching he will show a technicolor movie "One out of two", produced by Sky Pilot, USA in which Mr. Fuchida appears. He received his inspiration to save his hometown when he observed street preaching at Shibuya station in Tokyo and read in Romans 9, "For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen by race."

YOUTH RALLY AT AOYAMA GAKUIN

The Second Biennial Youth Rally of the United Church of Christ in Japan will be held on May 2-8 at Aoyama Gakuin. 1956 is Youth Emphasis Year in the Centennial Program of the church and all related committees (Women, Christian Education, Occupational Evangelism, Rural and Visitation) are participating in this rally.

Discussion groups in charge of the above named committees will deal with the following subjects: The Role of Youth in Rural Church

Evangelism, Bible Study Methods, Fellowship and Service for Youth, the Task of Occupational Evangelism for Mining, Textile, General Factory Communities and for Salaried Men, the New Educational Concept, Sermons, Discussion and Prayer in Visitation Evangelism. Foreign readers will be especially struck by the subjects to be handled in the women's group: Boy-Girl Relations (association and marriage), Home Morals (marital, filial, paternal), the Problem of Feudalism (obstacles to faith), and the Difference in Generations. A forum for all present will discuss: the Church's Responsibility and Mission as it Faces the Second Century of Protestantism.

CWS CHICKS FOR FARMERS

Japan Church World Service announces the arrival of JAL plan on April 5th of fifteen hundred white leghorn chickens. These are a gift from the farmers of California to Japanese farmers. They will be distributed by CWS after four weeks in quarantine at the Tokyo Institute of Domestic Animals in Chiba. Those receiving the chickens as gifts will own them outright when they have given "second-generation chicks" to some needy neighbor.

ARMED FORCES AID CHURCH

The Easter offering of \$580 (¥208,000) received at Johnson Airbase in Saitama Prefecture was donated to the work of the Rev. Katsumi Yamabatake, minister of the Bibai church in Hokkaido. Mr. Yamabatake, who was a wireless operator at the base during the Occupation, was baptized by the Rev. Masatake Fujita, General Secretary of the Church School Department (NCC), when he was pastor of a near-by Toyooka Church. Since then he has completed his theological education and been assigned to pioneer evangelism in the difficult coal mining area. The church has a kindergarten but no organ. The Easter contribution will be devoted to this purpose.

JAPAN CHRISTIAN QUARTERLY SPRING ISSUE

The Spring Issue of the Japan Christian Quarterly is off the press. Articles of special interest to both local and foreign readers will be "Japanese Society and Christianity" by Prof. Mikio Sumiya of Tokyo University, "Christianity and Japanese literature" by Junichiro Sako, a student of Japanese and Chinese classics, "Toward a Christian Philosophy of Education in Japan" by Kiyoko Cho of the International Christian University, and "Christianity and Modern Thought in Japan" by Katsumi Matsumura of Kyoto University. Five brief interviews with non-Christian religious leaders and one with a Christian leader on "Christianity and Other Religions in Japan" will be greeted with real interest by many but an account of "Billy Graham in Japan" by Kenny Josephy will provoke unfavorable comment because its generally critical attitude toward the United Church of Christ in Japan and NCC sponsored speakers.

ANNUAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The annual conference of missionaries associated with the United Church of Christ in Japan, which met at the Sanmaiso Hotel, Yumoto Hakone of April 3-6, was one of the most successful ever held. 293 IBC missionaries and 29 others attended. There were also 30 guests and 50 children present. After registration an open meeting of the Interboard Field Committee for all affiliated missionaries was held at which problems such as children's education, income tax, housing, health, etc., were discussed. Following this they separated into groups according to mission board affiliation for an hour of fellowship. Integration of the individual missionaries into the Interboard Committee has proceeded so far that this is now one of the rare occasions when such association is possible.

At the evening session the first day a panel composed of some who remember the "mission fathers", remained the gathering of those who had served in Japan in the early years and provided a rich heritage for those serving today. Speakers for the following sessions were the Rev. John DaMaagd on "Our Situation", Rev. Kenneth Heims of the Episcopal Mission on "Our Responsibility", and Dr. Howard W. Outerbridge on "Our Devotion." Twice a day the conference broke up into small groups for an informal sharing of mutual problems, achievements, and hopes. Their findings will be announced at a later date.

A number of Japanese Christian leaders were present throughout the conference. Among foreign guests were Mr. J. C. Penny, Mr. and Mrs. Weyman Huckabee, and Dr. and Mrs. Earle Cressy of Kennedy School of Missions and Dr. George Dorey, Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

NOSHIRO FIRE

The Rev. Kentaro Buma reports that local officials and the victims of the Noshiro (Akita Prefecture) fire was deeply appreciative of the relief supplies sent by Japan Church World Service. 400 of the 1,200 families who suffered from the fire can make a come-back by themselves. The rest are being housed in local schools and need further assistance. Those who managed to save their personal effects and furniture need money rather than material help. The church in Noshiro was not damaged but several church families were among the victims of the fire.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS HONORED

The United Church of Christ in Japan gave special recognition to 599 teachers and officers who have served the Sunday Schools for more than five years. 405 have served 5 - 9 years, 112 for 10 - 19 years, 45 for 20 - 29 years, 27 for 30 - 39 years, 3 for 40 - 49 years. Two have served for more than fifty years. The Rev. Sajiro Ito at 71 is an elder in the Nagashima church in Aomori, and the Rev. Ichiro Tanida is minister of the Ube Church in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

The subject of this report is a person who has been identified as a member of the Communist Party, U.S.A. The subject is a male, born [redacted] and is currently residing at [redacted]. The subject has been active in the Communist Party since [redacted] and has held various positions within the party, including [redacted]. The subject is known to be a person of considerable influence and is active in the [redacted] community. The subject is also known to be a person who is very active in the [redacted] community and is known to be a person who is very active in the [redacted] community. The subject is also known to be a person who is very active in the [redacted] community and is known to be a person who is very active in the [redacted] community.

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HIROMICHI KOZAKI CENTENNARY

Special services were held on April 14-15 at the Reinanzaka Church commemorating the centennary of the birth of Dr. Hiromichi Kozaki. As a member of the famous Kumamoto Band, President of Doshisha University, and for many years an elder statesman in the Christian church, Dr. Kozaki made a lasting contribution to the expansion of the Christian Church in Japan. His son, Michio, is pastor of the church which Dr. Kozaki founded.

THE JAPAN CHRISTIAN YEAR BOOK

The 1956 Japan Christian Year Book is just off the press. This is probably a record for early publication as far as recent years are concerned. The volume is essentially a directory of Protestant missions and missionaries in Japan. The lists of Protestant schools and social welfare institutions is not repeated from the 1954 year book and there are no statistics or graphs. There is only one short article on by Dr. Sigurd Aske of the Lutheran Free Church of Norway on "Trends in the Christian (Protestant) Movement in Japan" and the obituaries of twenty missionaries whose death was reported during 1954 and 1955.

BRIEF NOTES

Foreign Visitors

Recent Christian leaders visiting Japan include:

- Miss Ma Hela Shane, of the New Life Movement of the Burma NCC.
- Miss Josephine Louis, a member of the United Church of the Philippines.
- Dr. R.W. Burst, General Secretary of the Ecumenical Movement of the NCCC-USA.

Youth Week

Christian Youth Week will be observed May 22-27 under the motto "One Flock, One Experience." On the May 25th a Youth's Conference will be held at the Ochanomizu YWCA building at which Dr. Enkichiro Kan, Dean of the Literature Department at St. Pauls' University, who recently returned from England, will speak.

New Age

The Christian Magazine, "New Age" which has been published by the Kyobun Kan, is to be taken over by the Christian Literature Commission of the NCC. Miss Hanako Muraoka will continue as editor.

Mr. J.C. Penny and the Rev. Weyman Huckabee arrived in Tokyo March 29 for a three weeks visit. Mr. Penny particularly interested promoting the activities of the Japan Laymen's Association.

Japan Bible Society's Spring Offensive

In connection with the Japan Bible Society's efforts to distribute one million seven hundred thousand Bibles or portions over a two year period, 24 colporteurs are being sent to Kumamoto, Tokushima, Kochi, Chiba and Okayama prefectures for the 1956 "spring offensive". 750,000 were distributed during the November - March period.

Seibi Gakuen Fire

The gymnasium and middle school buildings of Seibi Gakuen in Yokohama were completely destroyed by fire on April 7. The total loss is estimated at thirteen million yen.

Bott Memorial Center

The first unit of the "Bott Memorial Center" in Setagaya, Tokyo will be dedicated on April 21st. Many notables are expected to be present.

The Rev. Shinko Imaizumi, former executive director of the Japan Bible Society, who retired last fall from active service, recently moved to Kyoto. At a farewell meeting on the Ginza Christian Center of April 2, tribute was paid to Mr. Imaizumi, who has been an active pastor, scholar and leader in the Christian Church for the past half century. He is eighty-five years of age.

A National Conference of Y's Men Clubs will be held at Gajoon, Meguro, Tokyo on May 3rd. Preparations for the coming world convention will be made at that time.

Mr. Samuel Catli, General Secretary for the Christian Education Department of the Christian Federation of the Philippines, visited Japan April 10-12 enroute home after attending a conference in Korea. While in Tokyo he discussed plans for the 1958 World SC convention with Rev. Masatake Fujita of the Church School Department (NCC).

